

SECRET*File:
Legal
Decisions*

OGC Has Reviewed

18 March 1947

**MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE FOR PERSONNEL AND
ADMINISTRATION**

**Subject: Development of Personnel Procurement and
External Research Programs through
Exploitation of American Institutional
Possibilities**

25X1A

1. Reference is made to the memorandum of 17 February 1947 from [redacted] to the Chief, ICAIS, concerning exploitation of American educational institutions in support of research and personnel procurement activities. We believe the legal question resolves itself to a simple one of authority to expend funds. Whatever portion of these proposals come within the terms of the basic CIG charter and appropriation acts read together may be carried out if deemed appropriate by the Director. As presented in this memorandum, the dividing line is rather difficult to set clearly. However, the following discussion may provide a guide.

2. A general training program whereby the underlying responsibility is assumed by the organization is, in our opinion, clearly unauthorized by existing law. Debate on both the War Department and the State Department training program legislation indicates that affirmative legislation is essential to such a proposal. On the other hand, the agency's authority to hire consultants, attend conferences and pay normal travel expenses would clearly permit a coordinating program which would call upon specified scholars and university representatives for advice and discussion on a consultant or WAF basis, and would allow liaison with such persons or groups of persons by CIG employees. Such a program would, of course, be useful as a source of information to the Government on types of courses given and individual students of special qualifications, and, on the other hand, would inform the institutions of the type of training desired and would bring to the attention of qualified students the opportunities offered by the Government.

3. To go further than such coordination and liaison could not, we believe, be legally justifiable. This position,

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however, would not rule out the possibility of special training for individual students with outstanding qualifications who are being considered for actual employment but who might require some highly specialized training. In this case, it would have to be shown that the training involved pertained directly to the work to be done, and that in return for this training the individual undertook to perform a specified tour of duty with the Government. On this particular question, see our memorandum to you of 22 January 1947, subject "Payment of Tuition Costs".

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

LRH/all